

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 08551 011424Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SR-02 ORM-01 /067 W

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R 011345Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6664

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 8551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: MOVEMENT OF TURKS FROM SOUTHERN CYPRUS

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR, DURING REVIEW OF SEVERAL CYPRUS SUBJECTS WITH GUNDUZ TUNCBILEK, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF CYPRUS AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS BRIEFED ON CURRENT MOVEMENT OF TURKS IN SOUTHERN CYPRUS AND PROBLEMS RELATED THERETO.

2. ACCORDING TO TUNCBILEK, THE GOT NOW BELIEVES THERE ARE AT THEMOST 35,000 TURK-CYPRIOTS REMAINING OUTSIDE OF THAT AREA OF CYPRUS CONTROLLED BY TURKISH ARMED FORCES. HE SAID THAT LARNACA IS "EMPTY OF TURKS", BUT THAT VERY FEW TURKS HAVE LEFT LIMASSOL. THE MAIN MOVEMENT AT THE MOMENT, ACCORDING TO TUNCBILEK, IS FROM PAPHOS AREA FROM WHICH TURK CYPRIOTS ARE WORKING THEIR WAY AROUND THE NORTHWEST COAST INTO THE TURKISH OCCUPIED AREA. TUNCBILEK SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE TOTAL OF 35,000 TURK CYPRIOTS IN THE SOUTH WILL BE REDUCED RAPIDLY OVER THE COMING WEEKS.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 08551 011424Z

3. POLITICAL COUNSELOR INQUIRED ABOUT REPORTED MOVEMENT OF

CERTAIN TURK CYPRIOTS (OLD,SICK, PREGNANT, AND STUDENTS) FROM SBA'S. TUNCBILEK COMMENTED THAT SUCH A MOVEMENT WAS UNDER WAY BUT THAT ALMOST ALL OF IT WOULD BE TO UK AND WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED HAD RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN UK TO RECEIVE THEM.

4. TUNCBILEK VOLUNTEERED THAT ONE PROBLEM NOW CONCERNING GOT IS TURK-CYPRIOT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO NORMALLY STUDY IN TURKEY. LAST YEAR'S TOTAL WAS ABOUT 3000, BUT ONLY ABOUT 2000 HAVE RECENTLY ARRIVED ON TURKISH MAINLAND FOR ACADEMIC YEAR NOW BEGINNING. GOT HAS TAKEN UNUSUAL STEPS WITH ALL UNIVERSITIES TO PROTECT THE ACADEMIC STATUS OF THE MISSING 1000 UNTIL AND IF THEY ARRIVE ON THE MAINLAND. TUNCBILEK CONCLUDED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION WITH COMMENT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE ABOUT 60-65 GREEK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON THE KARPAS PENINSULA, AND TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD NO INTENTION OF BLOCKING THEIR RETURN TO UNIVERSITIES ON THE GREEK MAINLAND.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY OCCUPATION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA08551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740313-0807
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741180/aaaacqhd.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVEMENT OF TURKS FROM SOUTHERN CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005